

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel management apparatus, which is connected to a plurality of terminals via a network and independently communicates with each of the terminals and [[that]] is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between [[a]] the plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel management apparatus comprising:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table showing a relationship between the plurality of terminals and a plurality of channels that can be utilized in the multi-channel input system; and

a notification unit which notifies the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal,

wherein the multi-channel management apparatus further comprises an interference channel candidate extraction unit, which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating a set channel, and notifies the interference channel to a terminal, when this channel other than the set channel has a data reception during a period while the set channel set at the terminal has no data reception.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel management method that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals each connected to and independently communicating with a high-order

terminal via a network and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel management method comprising:

managing a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table in the high-order terminal; and

notifying the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system by providing a channel-setting table provided in a high-order terminal for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals each connected to and independently communicating with the high-order terminal via a network and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system; and

a notification unit which notifies the setting status to a particular one of the terminals according to a request from the particular terminal.

5. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel terminal connected to and communicating with a high-order terminal via a network, which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system, wherein the multi-channel terminal [[that]] is in cordless connection to an input apparatus by utilizing a set channel that has been set in advance out of a plurality of channels based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel terminal comprising:

a checking unit which checks presence or absence of a data reception in a channel other than a set channel during a period while the set channel has no data reception; and

an interference channel candidate extraction unit which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating the set channel, when the checking unit has detected a data reception.

6. (Original) The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5, further comprising a notification unit which notifies the candidate interference channel to a user.

7. (Original) The multi-channel terminal according to claim 6, wherein the notification unit notifies a setting status of each channel of the multi-channel system, in addition to the interference channel.

8. (Original) The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5, further comprising an interruption processing unit which interrupts a processing to execute a processing of received data, when a set channel has received data while the checking unit is checking.

9. (Original) The multi-channel terminal according to claim 5, wherein the checking unit destroys data that has been received during the checking.

10. (Currently Amended) A multi-channel interference management method applied to a multi-channel terminal, which is connected to and communicates with a high-order terminal via a network ~~[[that]]~~ and is in cordless connection to an input apparatus by utilizing a set channel that has been set in advance out of a plurality of

channels based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel interference management method comprising:

checking presence or absence of a data reception in a channel other than a set channel during a period while the set channel has no data reception; and

when it is decided in the checking process that there is data reception, selecting a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating the set channel.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

a checking unit which checks presence or absence of a data reception in a channel other than a set channel during a period while the set channel set in advance out of a plurality of channels has no data reception, at a multi-channel terminal, which is connected to and communicates with a high-order terminal via a network ~~[[that]]~~ and is utilized for making cordless connection to an input apparatus based on a multi-channel system; and

an interference channel candidate extraction unit which selects a channel as a candidate interference channel having a possibility of the occurrence of interference at the time of updating the set channel, when the checking unit has detected a data reception.

12. (Withdrawn) A multi-channel setting apparatus that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel setting apparatus comprising:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system; and

a setting unit which finds a free channel based on the setting status, and sets the free channel to between a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.

13. (Withdrawn) A multi-channel setting method that is applied to a multi-channel input system for making cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system, the multi-channel setting method comprising:

managing a setting status of each channel in the multi-channel input system; and
finding a free channel based on the setting status, and setting the free channel to between a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.

14. (Withdrawn) A computer program containing instructions which when executed on a computer causes the computer to function as:

a management unit which manages a setting status of each channel in a multi-channel input system that makes cordless connection between a plurality of terminals and a plurality of input apparatuses corresponding to these terminals based on a multi-channel system; and

a setting unit which finds a free channel based on the setting status, and sets the free channel to between a terminal that requires the setting of a channel and an input apparatus corresponding to this terminal.